

CPYRGHT

REPORTAGE ON SAIGON BOMBING OF U.S. EMBASSY

Report on Casualties

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1608 GMT 31 March 1965--B

(Text) Hanoi, 31 March--Over 150 American aggressors, among them high-ranking officials, were killed or wounded by the bomb explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon this morning, according to American reports. Assistant Ambassador Alexis Johnson was cut on the head. Another report said he was also cut on the face by flying glass. The first three floors of this five story building, situated at the corner of Vo Di Nguy and Ham Nghi streets, were demolished. Maxwell Taylor's and Alexis Johnson's offices were heavily damaged. A number of houses near the U.S. Embassy were also damaged and a cafe of the U.S. aggressors across the street was blown up. About 20 cars lining the streets outside the embassy were hit and burned. The number of casualties is so great that several hours after the bomb exploded the American aggressors could not remove all the victims from the building.

Further Report

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0733 GMT 31 March 1965--B

(Text) Hanoi, 31 March--At least 217 were killed or wounded by the bomb explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon yesterday, according to Western reports. Among the American aggressors seriously wounded was the head of the CIA office in Saigon, Robert Miller, deputy chief of the U.S. Embassy political section, and M. Manfull, Embassy political counselor. Assistant Ambassador Alexis Johnson was cut on the face by flying glass. About 20 cars and military trucks lined up in the streets were destroyed.

UPI said that the blast caused extensive damage to the first three floors of the embassy and shattered almost every window of the other floors. There was a big hole in the street outside the embassy where the blast had occurred in a vehicle being driven past the embassy. AP further revealed that the bomb, estimated to weigh over 200 pounds, caused a massive explosion and sent a cloud of smoke about 90 meters into the air. According to the same source, the U.S. Embassy was closely guarded, its front surrounded by wire entanglements and banned to traffic. The outside of the embassy was guarded by puppet police and the inside by U.S. Marines. AP also made known that the area of the U.S. Embassy was blocked off because of the fear of a second bomb.

Washington Reaction

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1552 GMT 30 March 1965--B

(Text) Hanoi, 30 March--According to Western news agencies, the ruling circles in Washington and Saigon today discussed a new, vigorous act of war against the DRV. AP bluntly said that this might be a bombing raid against Hanoi. UPI reported that in Washington President Johnson had met his top-ranking advisers to discuss this question.

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